

From the Desk of  
GENE LINDQUIST

COMMUNITY Service  
Interact

Bob

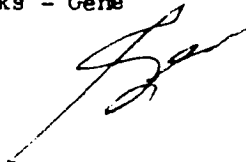
March 22, 1971

JIM COLOVIN:

I certainly don't approve of the "TONE" this letter reaches us and I doubt you do either. However he does wind it up in the end by saying THANKS for a job well done, and I feel we fall into this latter grouping since we do at least have such a club and such a Committee to function. It's just unfortunate that the help 'outside' has 'nt been up to par for you or our Club.

In any event, Jim, you might thumb through the letter and take whatever action you deem necessary and feel the club can carry out. He does drive home some valid and good points, but I repeat, he could 'nt win an Oscar in a Personality contest in this area of ours.

Thanks - Gene



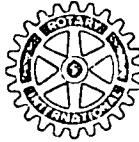
WEBSTER STATE BANK

Comm. SEW ; Interact

# ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA

1970-71

ORGANIZED 1936 — DISTRICT 589 — CHARTER 4041



LUNCHEON FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, FRIDAY 12:15 P. M.

PASADENA, TEXAS 77501

March 17, 1971

TO: Presidents of Rotary Clubs Sponsoring Interact Clubs in  
District 589

BOB SCOTT: COPY FOR YOU, FOR USE FOLLOWING YOUR TAKING OFFICE

Dear President:

GENE L

This is to inform you of the forthcoming District 589 Interact Conference to be held in Galveston on April 17, 1971, in conjunction with our own District 589 conference. I urge those of you who have a functioning Interact sponsor and Interact Committee in your club to fully acquaint yourselves with the program of Interact for the balance of this Interact year which concludes in mid-May. These young people need and deserve your support as Rotarians, and want and encourage your fellowship with them. In my visits to the Interact clubs and other district meetings, one of the primary requests from Interact participants is for more association with Rotarians. They want to be a part of Rotary through identity with Rotarians, and they want to share their ideas and accomplishments with Rotarians. Here is a tremendous opportunity to "bridge the gap." These young people are eager for counseling, exchange of ideas, guidance, encouragement, and above all, the example that we as Rotarians "practice what we preach." If we are not the embodiment of all the principles of Rotary, we should at least show a reasonable dedication to them.

Now I must touch on a very painful subject. In a program such as a District Interact undertaking, full participation of all member clubs is mandatory. There is much to be done and it should be done in full conformity, not only with the principles of Rotary, but under the prerequisites of Rotary International as set forth in the International constitution and bylaws. Full participation would mean every club represented at full voting strength, with both their school sponsor and a ROTARIAN, either the Interact Committee chairman or a member acting as his representative, PRESENT AT EVERY MEETING. May I remind you that Rotary International states: "No meeting shall be held without a Rotarian being present." If your club does not now

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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have a functioning Interact Committee, it is your responsibility as club president to call a meeting of your board and establish this committee at once. I find it very difficult to believe that after several years, some clubs still have not formed such a committee and are dependent upon faculty members to carry on in the interest of Rotary. This is not only intolerable, it is disgraceful. I cannot understand how a group of responsible Rotarians can brush this responsibility under the rug, while simultaneously accepting the plaudits for the performance of these young people. You are not only denying them the privilege they expected when they formed the club, but you are "short changing" your club in understanding and sharing the objectives, attitudes, and accomplishments of these fine young people on a personal basis. Much "lip service" has been given to overcoming this failure on the part of some clubs to meet their responsibility in this regard. Still, the condition exists. How do you think this attitude looks to the young people involved? What do you think their real feelings are when they try to figure this out? They are grateful to be members of Interact, but they are confused, hurt, and bewildered by the consistent refusal of Rotarians to serve the Interact Club they are responsible for creating.

Despite this fact, to the everlasting credit of these young people, some of our finest Interact Clubs function without a Rotary sponsor. This fact makes even more harsh the indictment of Rotarians for their failure to perform.

If you, as president of your Rotary club and/or its directors, are angered by the tone of this letter, that is exactly what I had hoped to achieve. I further hope that it will make you angry enough to put this problem in perspective and meet this obligation. As you know, I have just recently assumed the responsibility for District 589 Interact-Rotaract. However, I am not new to either the responsibility or the problems arising therefrom. I have heard every imaginable excuse for (1) either neglect of a club, or (2) the failure to furnish leadership, identity, encouragement, and fellowship through an active Interact Committee. In the past, I have requested as reasonably as possible with as much persuasion as possible that clubs meet the challenge of the responsibility incurred by sponsorship of this "youth arm" of Rotary, and I have failed. It is regretful that I must take a tone which could anger you, but may I remind you that I also can be angered by persistent continued inaction and indifference. For those of you falling in the category of non-compliance, I sincerely

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hope that this letter will stimulate you to activity. For those of you already in compliance and enjoying fully the benefits to be derived from accepting your responsibility, I say "Many thanks for a job well done."

There is still time for action during this next 30 days; time for involvement, participation, and encouragement on the part of every Rotary club which sponsors an Interact club.

Time grows short. Let us act!

Yours very truly,

*Calvin C. Mann*

Calvin C. Mann

District 589 Interact-Rotaract Chairman

CCM:fb

cc: Governor Erwin Heinen